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USSR - West Germany: Moscow has so far been unyielding on substantive alterations in the Bahr-Gromyko agreements. (Page 8)

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USSR - West Germany: The Scheel delegation's initial attempts to make substantive alterations in the Bahr-Gromyko agreements on the form of a FRG-USSR treaty have run into a stone wall.

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Gromyko specifically ruled out any mention in a Soviet - West German treaty of four-power rights, and rejected any attempt to draw a direct connection between the German-Soviet talks and the four-power sessions on Berlin. The Soviets especially voiced strong opposition to any changes in the paragraph of the Bahr-Gromyko "basic principles" that relate to the issue of existing borders. These points were raised by Scheel in order to make the draft more acceptable to domestic critics.

The Russians were [redacted] firm but polite, and they showed some flexibility on matters they considered nonessential. Moscow agreed, for example, to consider additions concerning future bilateral cooperation in various fields. [redacted]

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[redacted] nonetheless Moscow remains very interested in successfully concluding a treaty agreement. Evidence of this was confirmed by Gromyko's willingness to maintain the fast pace of the talks by participating in further sessions on through the weekend.

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There is little sign, though, that Moscow is at present prepared to budge on essential points.

[REDACTED] it might be necessary for the West German cabinet to reassess Bonn's substantive approach some time this coming week.

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